

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (New): A camera module for photographing a picture image, comprising:
an image pick-up element; and
an electrostatic actuator mechanism mounted to the image pick-up element, the electrostatic actuator mechanism including:

a first stator provided with an electrode group including at least three electrodes successively arranged in a predetermined direction, voltage being applied to the electrodes respectively;

a second stator arranged to face the first stator and provided with an electrode extending in the predetermined direction;

a movable member arranged between the first stator and the second stator, and provided with a first electrode section facing the electrode group, a second electrode section facing the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and an optical element configured to form an optical image on the image pick-up element; and

a switching circuit configured to apply voltage alternately to at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group and the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group being rendered higher than the potential of the first electrode section, or the potential of the electrode extending in the predetermined direction being rendered higher than the potential of the second electrode section, and to switch the order of applying voltage successively to at least one of the electrodes of the electrode group.

Claim 25 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein the switching circuit applies voltage simultaneously to at least two electrodes forming the electrode group adjacent to each other in the predetermined direction.

Claim 26 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein a width in the predetermined direction of the first electrode section mounted to the movable member is 1.5 to 2.5 times as much as a width in the predetermined direction of each of the electrodes forming the electrode group.

Claim 27 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, further comprising a dielectric film formed to cover the electrode group.

Claim 28 (New): The camera module according to claim 27, wherein the switching circuit is configured to impair a potential difference such that the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group is rendered lower than the potential of the first electrode section, when voltage is applied to the electrode extending in the predetermined direction.

Claim 29 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, further comprising a dielectric film formed to cover the first electrode section.

Claim 30 (New): The camera module according to claim 29, wherein the switching circuit is configured to impair a potential difference such that the potential of at least one of the electrodes forming the electrode group is rendered lower than the potential of the first

electrode section, when voltage is applied to the electrode extending in the predetermined direction.

Claim 31 (New): The camera module according to claim 29, wherein the first and second electrode sections bear substantially the ground potential.

Claim 32 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein the optical element is driven together with the movable member.

Claim 33 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein the first and second stators include stoppers projecting from upper surfaces of the electrode group and the electrode extending in the predetermined direction, and the movable member is provided with regions in which the stoppers are slid, the regions being formed on surfaces on which the first and second electrode sections are formed.

Claim 34 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein the movable member includes stoppers projecting from surfaces of the first and second electrode sections, and the first and second stators are provided with regions in which the stoppers are slid, the regions being formed on surfaces on which the electrode group and the electrode extending in the predetermined are formed.

Claim 35 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein the electrode group includes three electrodes to which voltage is applied respectively.

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Claim 36 (New): The camera module according to claim 24, wherein the electrode group includes four electrodes to which voltage is applied.

Claim 37 (New): The camera module according to claim 27, wherein the first and second electrode sections bear substantially the ground potential.